

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 OSLO 03484 201501Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 OES-09 DLOS-09 IO-13 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 /101 W
-----117784 201513Z /44

O R 201418Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6181
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON, ENG
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GE
USNMR SHAPE
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK, VA

S E C R E T OSLO 3484

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO
SUBJECT: NORWEGIANS ARREST SOVIET SHIP IN NORWEGIAN WATERS

REF: (A) OSLO 3392, (B) STATE 179869 (NOTAL), (C) OSLO 3245

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 JULY 18, THE SOVIET FISHING VESSEL,
STALINGRAD PARTISAN, WAS OBSERVED ANCHORED ABOUT TWO NAUTICAL
MILES OFF THE EAST FINNMARK SHORE OF NORWAY IN VARDOE. THREE
NORWEGIAN NAVY MOTORED TORPEDO BOATS REACTED IMMEDIATELY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 OSLO 03484 201501Z

BUT FOUND THAT THE SHIP HAD MOVED INTO INTERNATIONAL WATERS
WHEN THEY ARRIVED. THIS WAS THE THIRD
INCURSION BY SOVIET VESSELS INTO EAST FINNMARK WATERS IN
THE LAST TWO WEEKS (SEE REFTELS). IT RECEIVED MINIMAL
COVERAGE IN THE OSLO PRESS WHICH POINTED OUT THAT FONMIN
FRYDENLUND HAD CALLED IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON JULY 13 AND
REMINDING HIM OF THE NORWEGIAN REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE

USE OF NORWEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS BY FOREIGN SHIPS.

2. THE HARRASSED POLICE CHIEF OF VARDØE WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING THE SHIP INCURSIONS AND THE RESULTANT PAPERWORK, PUBLICITY AND COORDINATION WITH THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY FINALLY ASKED THAT SEA SURVEILLANCE IN THE AREA BE INCREASED. THE JULY 20 OSLO AFTENPOSTEN REPORTED THAT HIS REQUEST HAD BEEN GRANTED AND THAT THE NORTHERN NORWAY NAVAL COMMAND HAD ADDED TO ITS CAPABILITIES IN THE EAST FINNMARK AREA AND THAT ITS FORCES WOULD BE PUT ON A HIGH READINESS STANDING IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE POLICE TO ARREST FOREIGN SHIPS VIOLATING NORWEGIAN TERRITORY.

3. THE SAME VARDØE POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCED TO THE NORWEGIAN PRESS SERVICE THAT THE COAST GUARD SHIP SOERFOLD HAD ARRESTED A SOVIET SHIP AT 3:30 AM JULY 20 AND ESCORTED IT INTO VARDØE WHERE ITS CAPTAIN IS NOW BEING DETAINED. THE SOVIET SHIP WAS ANCHORED FIVE CABLE LENGTHS INSIDE THE FOUR-MILE LIMIT WHEN THE SOERFOLD FIRST WARNED IT AWAY AND THEN, RECEIVING NO RESPONSE, APPREHENDED IT.

4. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE SERIES OF SOVIET SHIP INCURSIONS JULY 19 (BEFORE THE ARREST REFERRED TO IN PARA 3) WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SECRETARY GENERAL CASPAR STEPHANSEN. HE SAID THAT IT SEEMED CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE INCIDENTS CONSTITUTED A CLEAR MUSCLE FLEXING PLOY ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION, PROBABLY IN ANTICIPATION OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 OSLO 03484 201501Z

THE UPCOMING TALKS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE SVALBARD FISHERIES PROTECTION ZONE (OSLO 3256). VIOLATIONS OF NORWEGIAN WATERS BELONGED, STEPHANSEN COMMENTED, TO THE SAME GENRE OF CRUDE WARNINGS AS THE DROPPING OF SOVIET MISSILE CASINGS IN THE DISPUTED BARENTS SEA AREA TWO YEARS AGO.

5. COMMENT: THE EARLIER INCURSIONS, IF INTENDED BY THE SOVIET UNION TO KEEP THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OFF BALANCE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL. THE SOVIETS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN TESTING NORWEGIAN SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY AND REACTION TIME. THE LATEST INCIDENT, HOWEVER, SOME THREE WEEKS AFTER THE INITIAL SOVIET INCURSION, HAS SHOWN AN IMPROVED GON CAPACITY TO HANDLE INCIDENTS OF THIS TYPE. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAD DISCUSSED NORWEGIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS WITH SENIOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS BEFORE THE LATEST VIOLATIONS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE GON HAD TO VIEW EACH INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT IN THE BILATERAL LINK WITHIN THE GREATER CONTEXT OF THE SOVIET/NORWEGIAN RELATIONSHIP, WHICH, THEY POINTED OUT, HAD DETERIORATED. THE JULY 18 AND 20 INCIDENTS AND THE ARREST OF THE SOVIET SHIP AND ITS CAPTAIN HAVE NOW CONFRONTED THE NORWEGIANS WITH A

NEW SITUATION. ASSUMING THE SOVIETS' OBJECTIVE WAS
TO FLEX THEIR MUSCLES TO IRRITATE THE GON, THEY MAY
NOW HAVE GONE TOO FAR. HOW THE GON DEALS WITH THE
DETAINED SHIP SHOULD BE QUITE REVEALING AS TO THE
STANCE NORWAY PLANS TO STRIKE VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET
UNION IN THE COMING MONTHS.
LERNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO003484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780298-0458
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780738/aaaabfwh.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3964a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OSLO 3392, 78 STATE 179869, 78 OSLO 3245
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1939831
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIANS ARREST SOVIET SHIP IN NORWEGIAN WATERS
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3964a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014